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## *USACE's Stuard sought best product for US Tax-payers and Iraqi people*

By John Connor  
 Gulf Region Central District



Maysan Resident Engineer Barry Stuard, left, with colleague Leo Sandoval in the Basrah Office. (USACE photo)

**.TALLIL**, Iraq – Nearing the end of his second tour in Iraq with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Barry Stuard said that "10 years from now, I just want to be able to look back and know that 'I made a difference.'"

Stuard, a civil engineering technician

in the Corps' Little Rock District, spent most of his current Iraq tour as the Maysan Resident Engineer operating out of USACE's Basrah Area Office. Maysan is one of the nine southern Iraq provinces where reconstruction work is performed by the Corps' Gulf Region South District.

Of the many projects on which he worked, Stuard said the biggest and one of the most important was a 400 kV electrical substation constructed in Maysan's capital of Al-Amarah at a cost of about \$37 million. He said the project enabled the typical Maysani to have electricity 18 hours a day, instead of just eight.

Stuard said this major electricity project generated considerable favorable comment, including a personal email he received from the Governor of Maysan praising the effort.

"But I guess the most important project is the Maysan Surgical Hospital, a 100-bed facility that every Maysani could enjoy," Stuard said. He worked on this \$12 million-plus project from get-go and voiced hope it can be completed next year. It's now about 12 percent finished.

He said all the projects on which he worked will hold memories for him because each one affects the lives of Iraqis, be it a road leading from one village to another or a landfill or facilities for Iraqi police.

"Each and every one had its purpose and I hope I did a good job to get the best product for the American taxpayer and the Iraqi people," said Stuard, who is scheduled to head home during the second week of July.

He praised as a "super woman" his wife Chris, who he said is raising their three children and working as a flight nurse "while I am over here on 'vacation'." He said that "my kids are my driving force, and knowing they support me during these times keeps me going."

Stuard also thanked Little Rock District colleagues at Dierks Lake.

"These co-workers really stepped up and took on a lot of my duties," he said. "The commander called my wife to make sure she was OK during the tornadoes and everyone was constantly there for my family in case they needed anything."

Stuard arrived in Iraq in late September 2007 as a construction representative. He was assigned initially to Camp Bucca but was shifted to Basrah three weeks later after a resident engineer was wounded there during a rocket attack.

Stuard said he received a briefing on the projects he would handle from the wounded individual at a British hospital in Basrah and then was fully introduced to the parameters of his new job by Area Engineer Andrew Schmeider and Lt. Col. Kenneth McDonald, then the officer-in-charge of the Basrah Office. "I just look back now and appreciate the detail that both of them requested because it drove me to know every little item of the projects, which prepared me for the future," he related.

Stuard also singled out for special thanks Basrah Office colleagues Leo Sandoval--"one of the finest guys I have ever met"--Sgt. First Class Harold Stewart, "who always had everything done before you asked him about it," and Shawn Castro, "who, no matter how bad you felt or busy you were, made you laugh."

Note: John Connor is formerly the Public Affairs Officer with the Gulf Region South district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, email requests to CEGRD.PAO@usace.army.mil. For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, visit [www.grd.usace.army.mil](http://www.grd.usace.army.mil).